Visit Philadelphia Announces Finalists for First-Ever Liberty Bell Awards

Over 1,200 nominations showcase Philadelphia's favorite spots, from iconic landmarks to hidden gems and beyond.

PHILADELPHIA - March 5, 2024 - Visit Philadelphia announced the finalists for **The Liberty Bells**, an inaugural celebration of civic pride honoring the people, places and attractions beloved by both visitors and residents.

Visit Philadelphia created The Liberty Bells to coincide with awards season (the Academy Awards, Grammys, etc.) and promote a sense of pride and enthusiasm among everyone who lives or travels here. This initiative highlights the diverse assortment of attractions, neighborhoods and cultural landmarks found within the region.

"Philadelphians are our best tourism advocates," said Angela Val, president and CEO of Visit Philadelphia. "We all have our favorite places to eat, visit and explore. The Liberty Bells offer a chance to leverage our residents' insider expertise, highlighting beloved local haunts, businesses, neighborhoods and attractions."

With over 1,200 submissions received, the general public and Visit Philadelphia partners had the opportunity to nominate their favorite spots across 10 categories, including "Best Historic Attraction" and "Philly's Best-Kept Secret." People can now vote for winners in each category at wisitphilly.com/libertybells. Results will be revealed on Visit Philly's social media channels on Monday, March 18, 2024.

"At Visit Philadelphia, we collaborate with many businesses and organizations to tell our region's story and inspire future travel here," said Jessica Calter, senior vice president of advancement and external affairs. "When visitors feel the same passion for our city as our residents do, it sparks an infectious excitement that attracts even more people. It's inspiring to see the enthusiasm of so many individuals as they vote for their favorite Philadelphia places for The Liberty Bell awards."

Liberty Bell Awards Categories

Public Art Piece You Wouldn't Mind Passing Daily

Awarded to public artwork visible to everyone.

- The *Rocky* Statue
- Swann Memorial Fountain
- *The Thinker*
- *LOVE* Sculpture

Most Iconic Museum or Attraction Entrance

Awarded to an iconic attraction or museum entryway.

- Philadelphia Museum of Art
- The Franklin Institute
- Masonic Temple

The "In Pursuit of a More Perfect Union" Award

Awarded to the person or group that embodies Philadelphia's spirit as a premier welcoming, inclusive and respectful destination in the U.S.

- Jason and Kylie Kelce
- Mayor Cherelle Parker
- Harriett's Bookshop
- <u>@Photolope</u>

Best Historic Attraction

Awarded to the most iconic of Philly's many historic attractions.

- Independence Hall
- <u>Liberty Bell</u>
- The Franklin Institute

Swoon-Worthy Dish in Your Insta Feed

Awarded to the picturesque dish first spotted in a news feed, the one that instantly captivates the viewer and prompts them to follow the creator or restaurant.

- Lamb shoulder at Zahav
- Garlic butter chicken at Honeygrow
- French toast at The Wayward

The Sandwich Worth Waiting in Line For

Given to the sandwich (and restaurant) that merits enduring a 30-minute wait, even in the rain.

- Any sandwich at Middle Child Clubhouse
- Cheesesteak at Angelo's Pizzeria South Philly
- Roast pork at DiNic's Roast Pork

Outstanding View from a Hotel Window

Awarded to the hotel view that captivates visitors, prompting them to inquire, "How can I book that room?"

- Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia at Comcast Center
- The Notary Hotel, Philadelphia, Autograph Collection
- Hyatt Centric Center City Philadelphia

Neighborhood with the Biggest Personality

Awarded to the neighborhood that has it all: a cast of characters, culinary scene, amazing public art and everything else that embodies what Philadelphia is all about.

- Fishtown
- Old City
- <u>East Passyunk</u>

Philly's Best-Kept Secret

Awarded to a place that one may prefer to keep to themselves, but it's too amazing not to share.

• Masonic Temple, Library & Museum

- <u>Science History Institute</u>
- Fishtown Choir
- Curtis Institute of Music
- PingPod

Outstanding Achievement in the Philly Region

Awarded to the museum or attraction that is a must-visit in Philly's four surrounding counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware or Montgomery.

- Longwood Gardens
- Fonthill Castle
- Brandywine Museum of Art

About Visit Philadelphia

Visit Philadelphia® is our name and our mission. As the region's official tourism marketing agency, we build Greater Philadelphia's image, drive visitation and boost the economy. On Greater Philadelphia's official visitor website, visitphilly.com, visitors can explore things to do, upcoming events, themed itineraries and hotel packages.

Compelling photography and videos, interactive maps and detailed visitor information make the site an effective trip-planning tool. Visitors can also find loads of inspiration on Visit Philly's social media channels.

Note to Editors: For high-resolution photos and high-definition B-roll of Greater Philadelphia, visit the Photos & Video section of <u>visitphilly.com/mediacenter</u>.